

# SONIC™

# #1

- MEGA DRIVE -

THE NEXT  
LEVEL



**Archie**  
ACTION!  
ARCHIECOMICS.COM

SEGA®



**CHARACTER  
= SELECT =**



Welcome to the Sonic Comic Universe — a world unique & beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Sonic and his friends travel new lands as they battle the evil ambitions of Dr. Eggman!

# SONIC™

- MEGA DRIVE -  
THE NEXT LEVEL

THE STORY SO FAR...



## A SUPERSONIC QUEST

The evil Dr. Eggman is scouring the Eastwatch Islands for the seven relics called the "Ancient Gears"! With them he can power his latest weapon of destruction, the Mega Drive!



Unfortunately for him—but thankfully for the rest of us—Sonic learned of his dastardly plan and took action!

Along the way he met and rescued Tails and Amy Rose—and helped Knuckles to realize he'd been duped by Dr. Eggman once again.

Now all four high-speed heroes are racing across the zones of the Eastwatch Islands, searching for more Ancient Gears!



SONIC: MEGA DRIVE - THE NEXT LEVEL, No. 1, December, 2016. Published by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100, Pelham, NY 10803-1242. Jon Goldwater, Publisher/Co-CEO, Nancy Silberkleit, Co-CEO, Mike Pellerito, President, Victor Gorelick, Co-President. Single copies \$3.99. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. ©SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA, the SEGA logo, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, SONIC UNIVERSE and SONIC BOOM™ are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA Holdings Co., Ltd. or its affiliates. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 250 East Olive Avenue, Ste 200, Burbank, CA 91502 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Title registered in U.S. patent office. Printed in USA.

# GLITTER PEAK ZONE

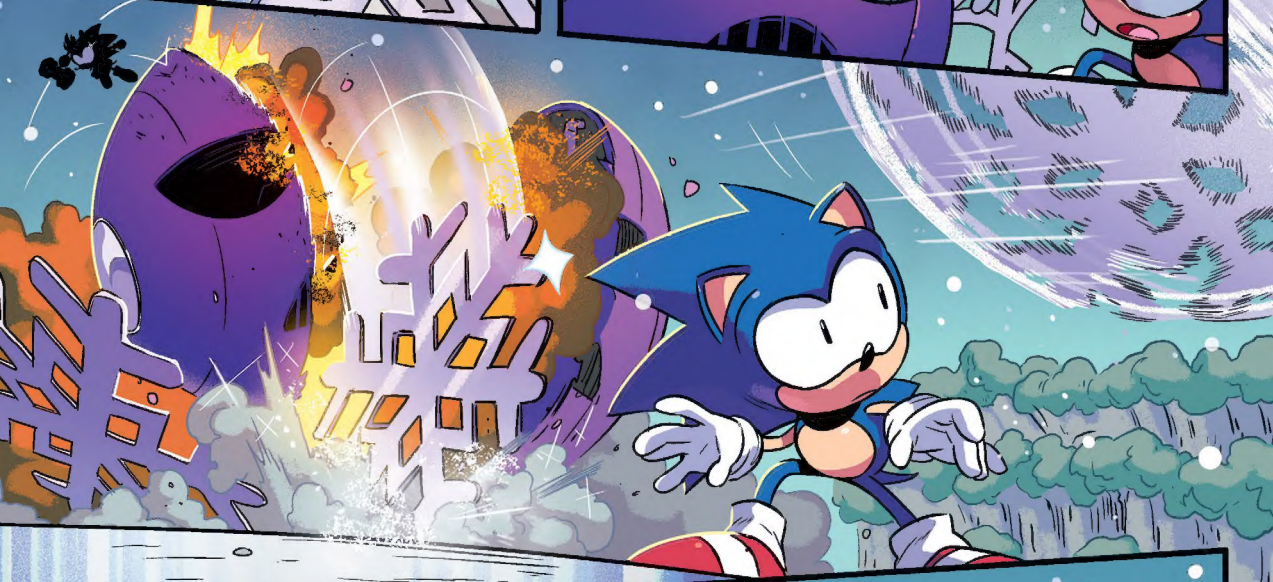
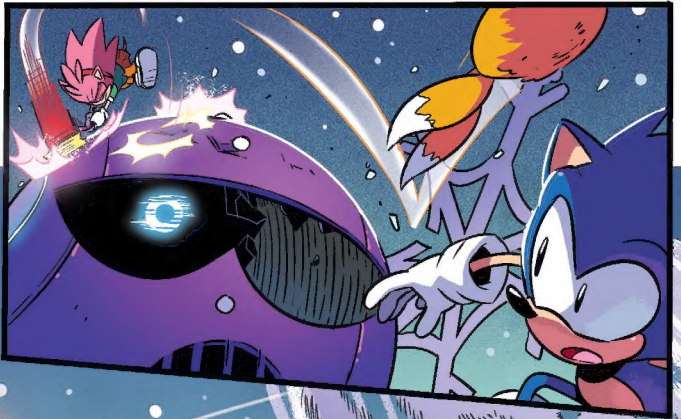


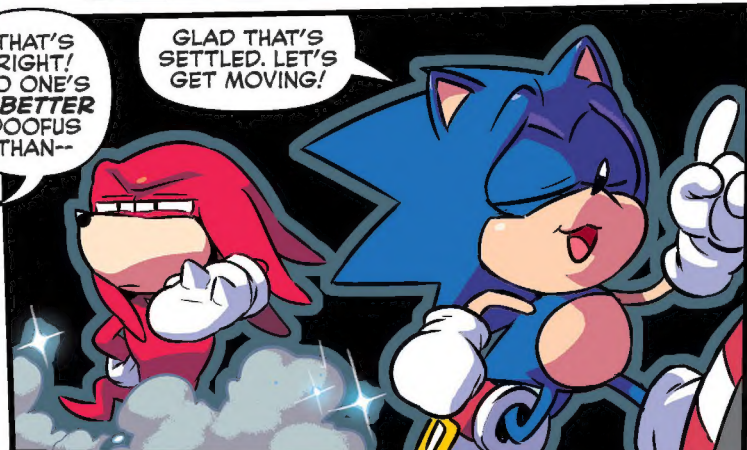
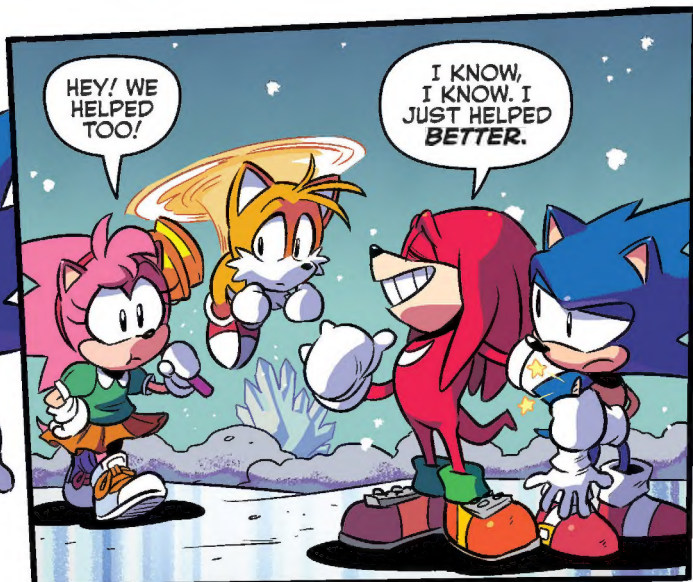
## MEGA DRIVE

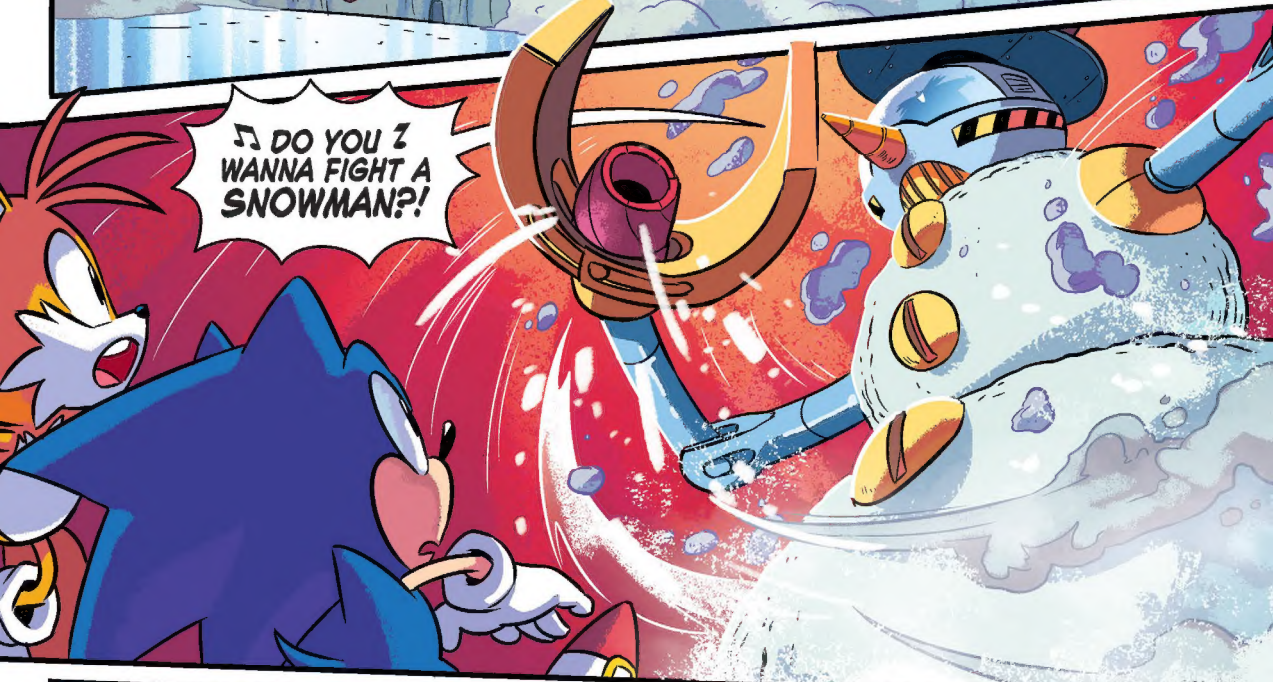
ACT TWO

### THE NEXT LEVEL

Writer: IAN FLYNN  
Line Art: TYSON HESSE  
Colors: MATT HERMS  
Letters: JACK MORELLI  
Cover By: TYSON HESSE  
Editor: VINCENT LOVALLO  
Editor-in-Chief: VICTOR GORELICK  
President: MIKE PELLERITO  
Publisher/Co-CEO: JON GOLDWATER  
Special thanks to: SANDRA JO,  
MAI KIYOTAKI and to the Character  
Business and Licensing Department  
at SEGA Corporation









# HAUNTED DEPTHS ZONE



T-TAILS? A-ARE YOU SURE WE'LL FIND THE NEXT ANCIENT GEAR HERE?

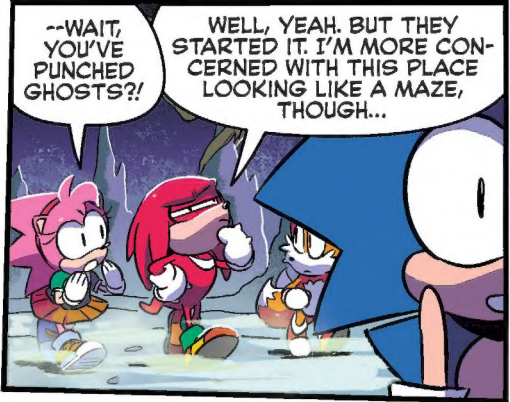
IT'S THE NEXT CLOSEST ISLAND, SO IT'S WORTH A SHOT!



B-BUT WHAT IF THERE ARE GHOSTS?

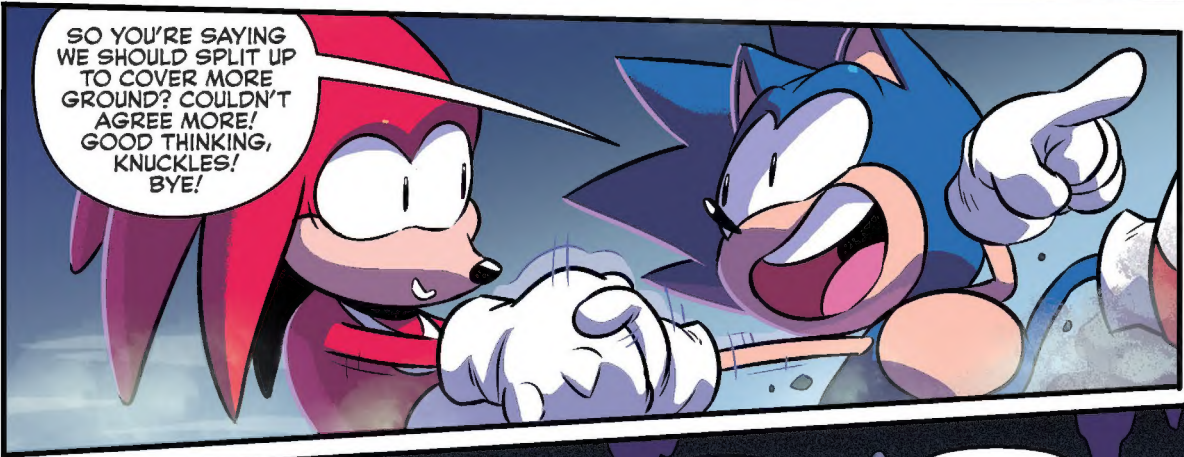
*Pah!* THEY DON'T GET UPPITY UNLESS THERE'S NO LIGHT. AND EVEN THEN, YOU JUST PUNCH THEM IN THE FACE!

REALLY? WELL THEN--



--WAIT, YOU'VE PUNCHED GHOSTS?!

WELL, YEAH. BUT THEY STARTED IT. I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH THIS PLACE LOOKING LIKE A MAZE, THOUGH...



SO YOU'RE SAYING WE SHOULD SPLIT UP TO COVER MORE GROUND? COULDN'T AGREE MORE! GOOD THINKING, KNUCKLES! BYE!

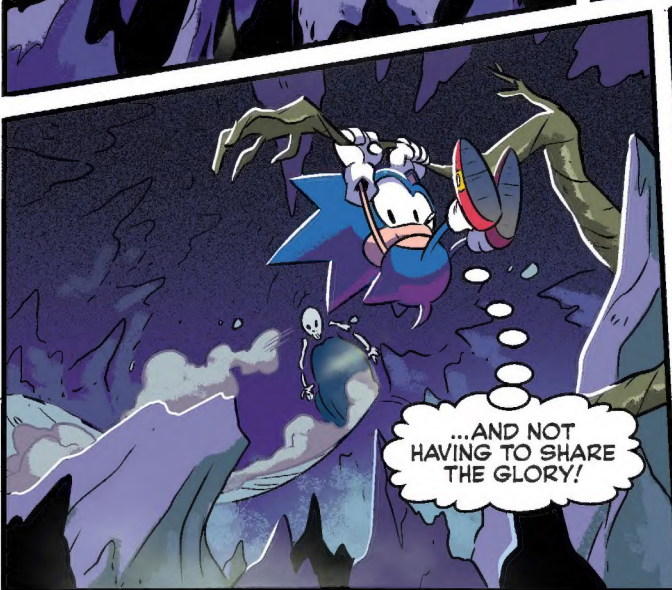
SONIC! NO!

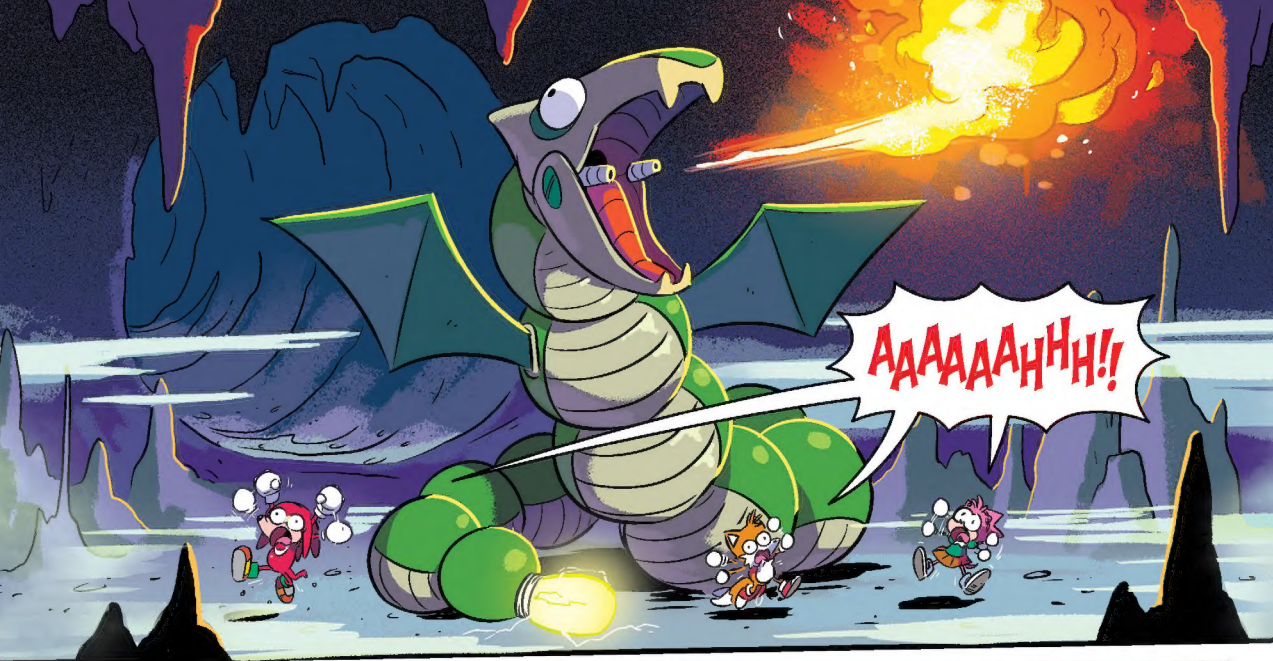
WE OUGHT TO STICK TOGETHER!

...WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

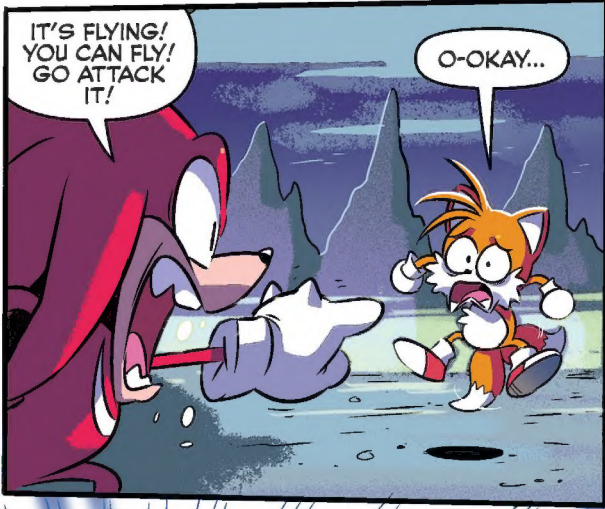








AAAAAAAAHHH!!



IT'S FLYING!  
YOU CAN FLY!  
GO ATTACK  
IT!

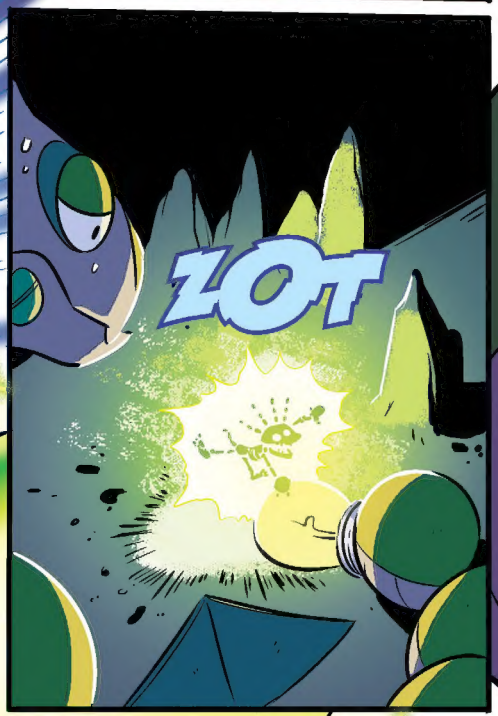
O-O-KAY...



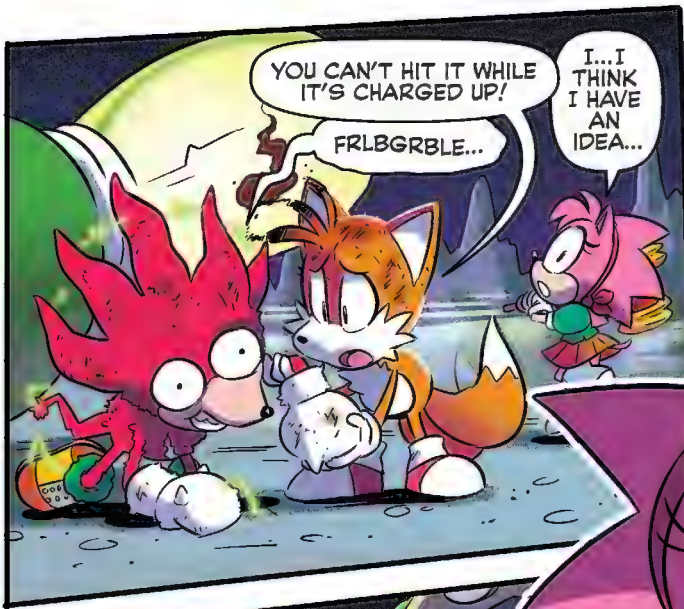
AHHH!  
BAD PLAN!  
BAD PLAN!



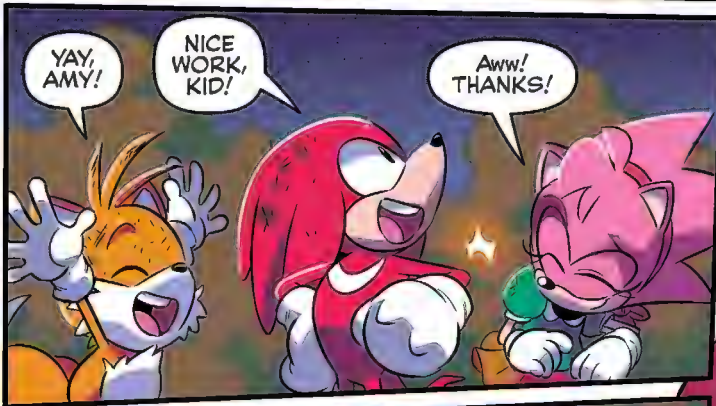
FINE!  
I'LL DO IT  
MYSELF!



ZOT



# SKA-BOOM



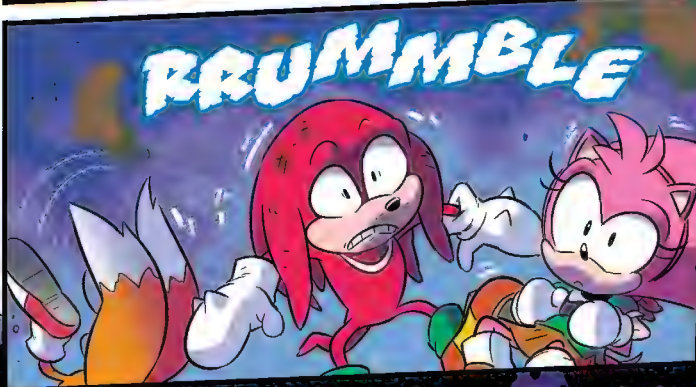
YAY, AMY!

NICE WORK, KID!

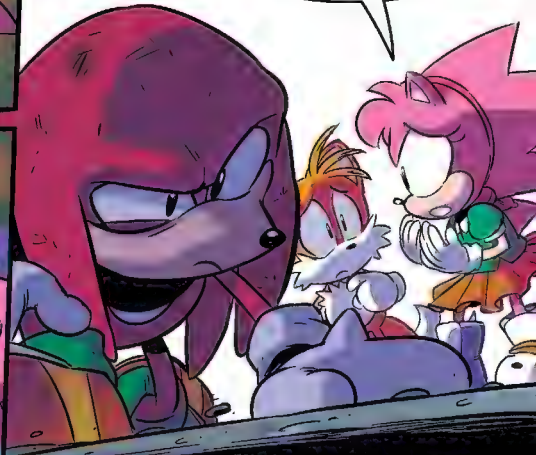
Aww! THANKS!

THAT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE A NATURAL TREMOR.

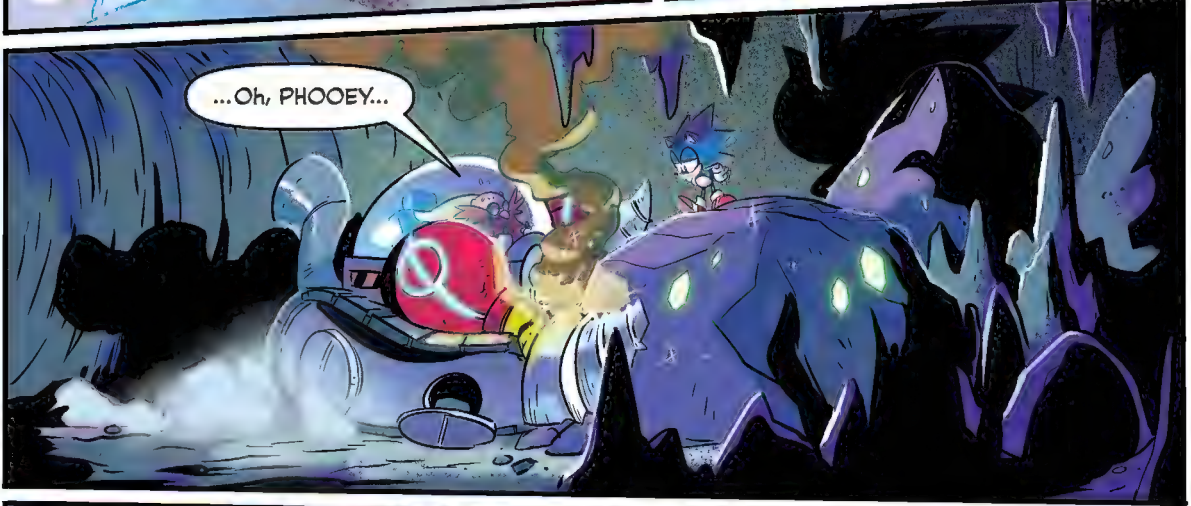
I SURE HOPE SONIC'S OKAY...



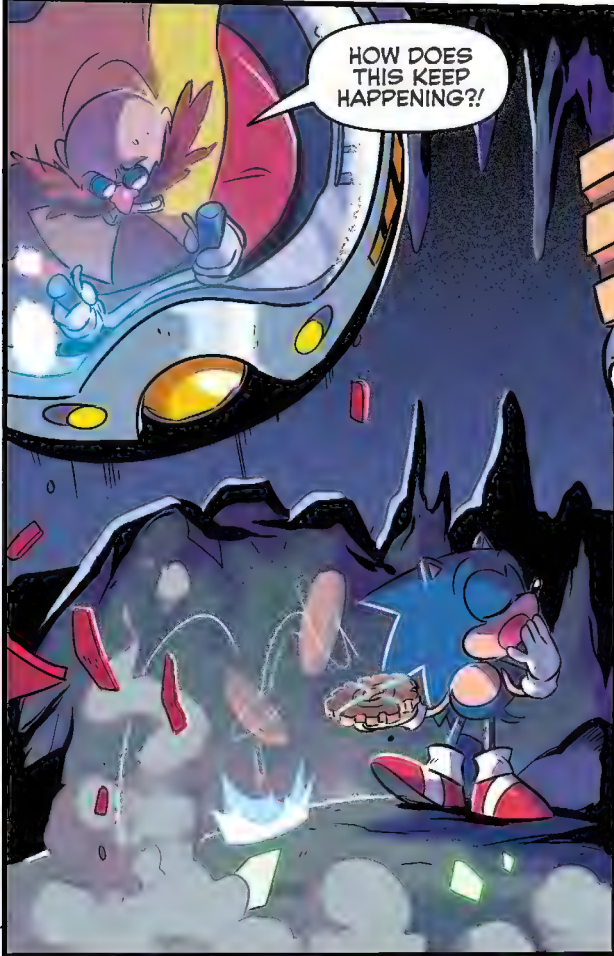
## BRUMMBLE



## RUMMBLE



...Oh, PHOOEY...



HOW DOES THIS KEEP HAPPENING?!



THAT WAS HILARIOUS!  
DID YOU GUYS SEE--?





...Oh, YEAH...

WELL... IT'S WHAT I WANTED, RIGHT?

BESIDES, I'M SURE THEY'LL CATCH UP SOON ENOUGH!



TREMORS STOPPED. I HOPE SONIC WASN'T CAUGHT IN A CAVE-IN.

A CAVE-IN?! WHAT IF HE'S TRAPPED?! OR HURT?! OR WORSE?!



DON'T WORRY, GUYS! THIS IS SONIC WE'RE TALKING ABOUT! HE'S UNSTOPPABLE!

D-DO YOU THINK HE'S OKAY?

I'M SURE OF IT!



AND HE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT US STANDING AROUND WORRYING ABOUT HIM. C'MON! LET'S HEAD TO THE NEXT ISLAND!

YEAH! MAYBE WE'LL EVEN GET THERE BEFORE HIM!

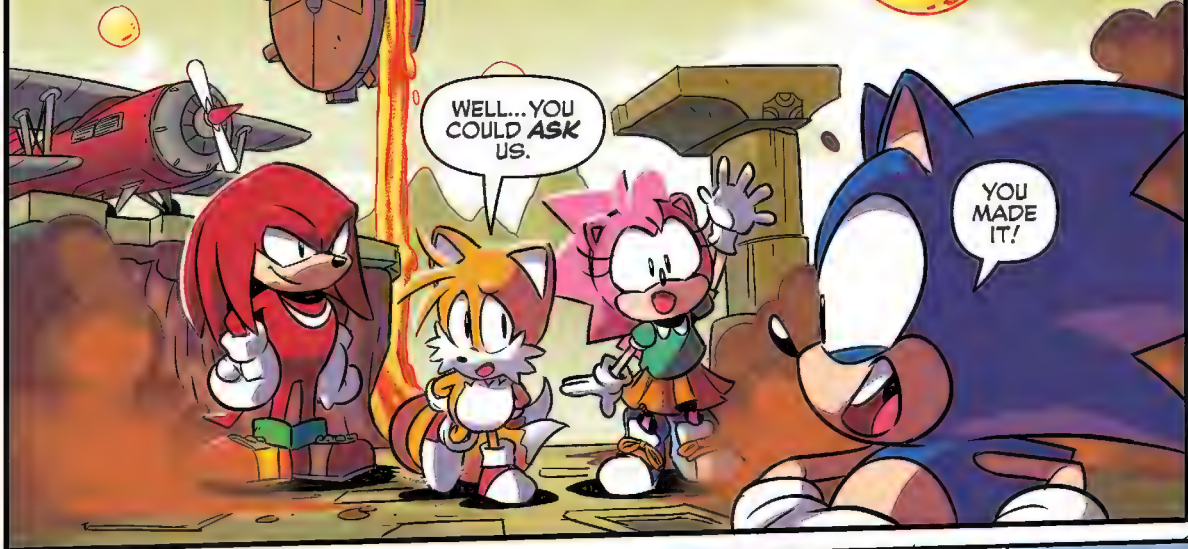
# ERUPTION RUIN ZONE

WELL,  
THIS LOOKS...  
COZY...

WHOOPS!  
NO WAY I'M  
DIVING IN  
THERE.

AND I DON'T *QUITE* HAVE THE UPS  
FOR THAT LEDGE. I OUGHT TO TAKE  
SOME PARKOUR LESSONS  
AT SOME POINT...

I HATE TO  
ADMIT IT BUT...  
I'M STUCK. AND  
I'VE GOT NO WAY  
OF KNOWING IF  
EVERYONE IS  
ALL RIGHT...



WELL... YOU COULD ASK US.

YOU MADE IT!

DID YOU GUYS RUN INTO TROUBLE?

NOTHING WE COULDN'T HANDLE. YOU?

Eh, Y'KNOW, JUST THE USUAL EGGMAN ANTICS.

SPEAKING OF WHOM, HE'S IN THAT TEMPLE. EXCEPT THE ONLY WAY IN IS PAST THIS WALL.

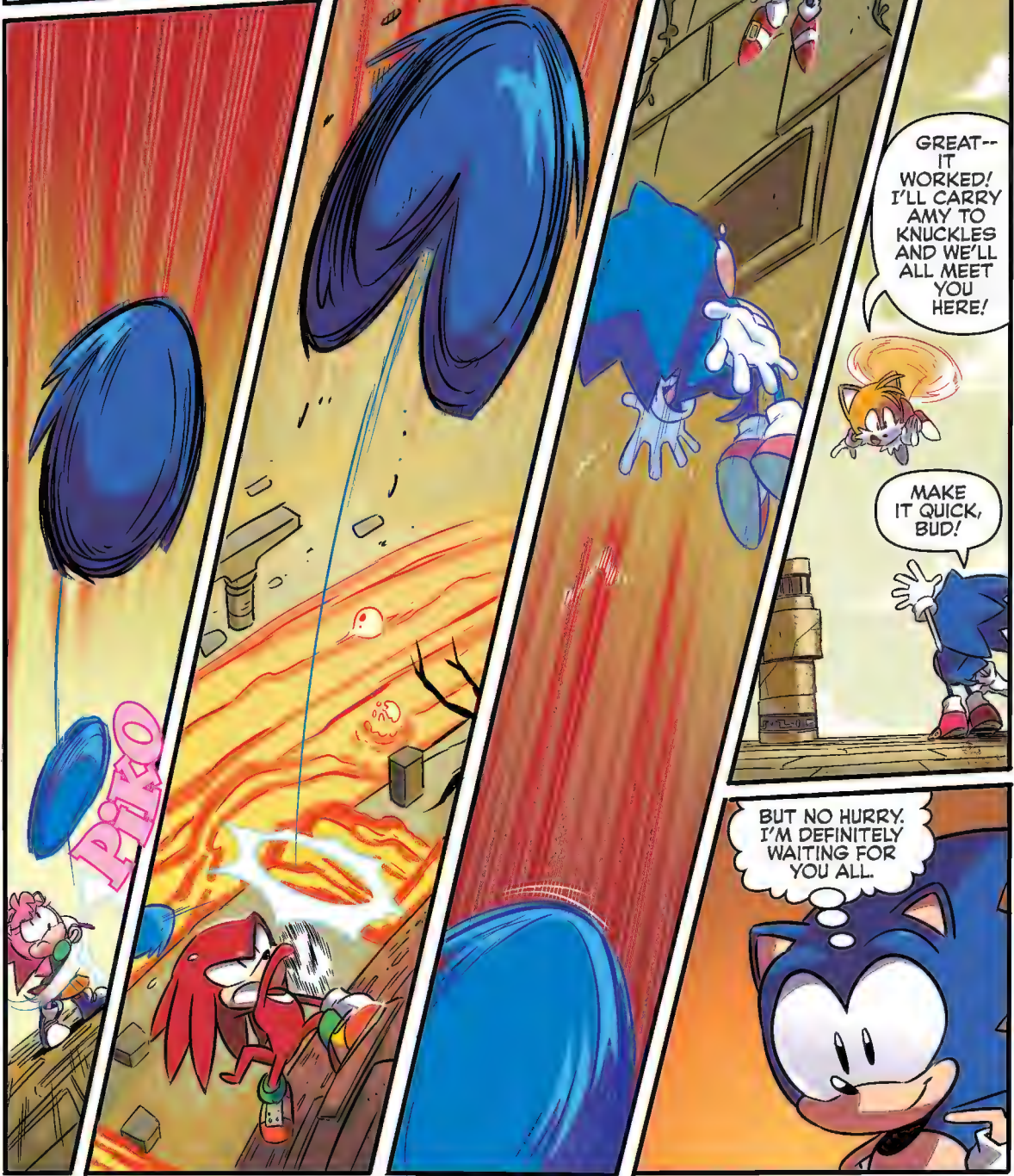
WHAT'S ONE WALL COMPARED TO ALL OF US?

WE'RE ALL GETTING OVER THERE!

WE'LL GET YOU OVER THERE!

AND I THINK I'VE GOT A WAY!

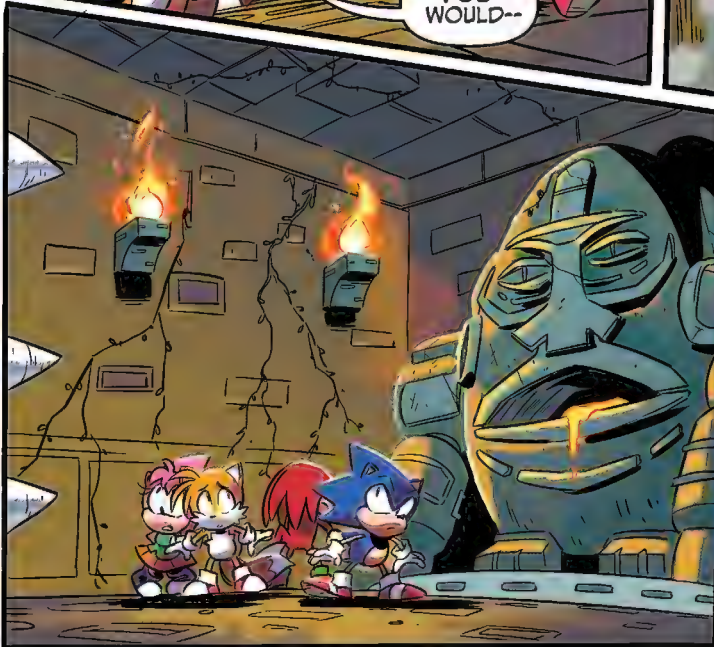
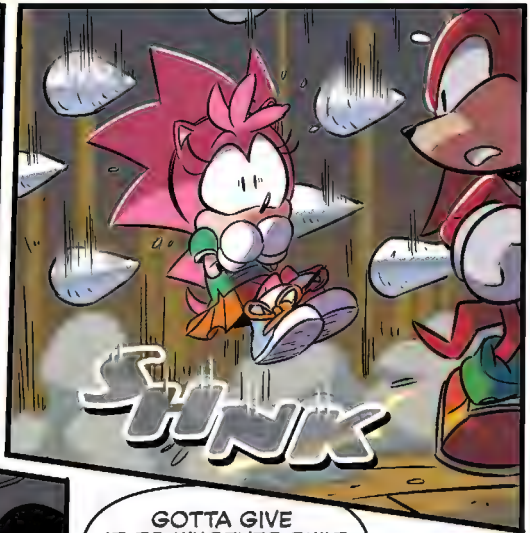
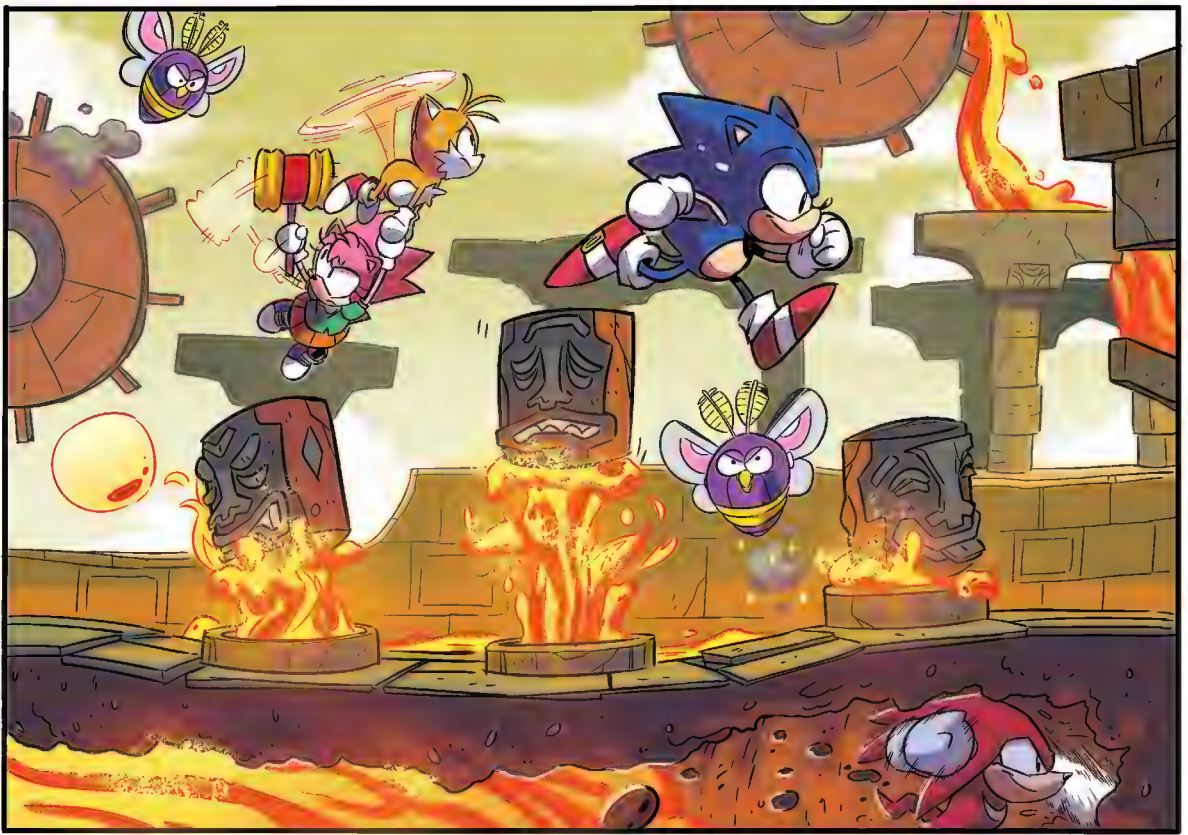




GREAT-- IT WORKED! I'LL CARRY AMY TO KNUCKLES AND WE'LL ALL MEET YOU HERE!

MAKE IT QUICK, BUD!

BUT NO HURRY. I'M DEFINITELY WAITING FOR YOU ALL.

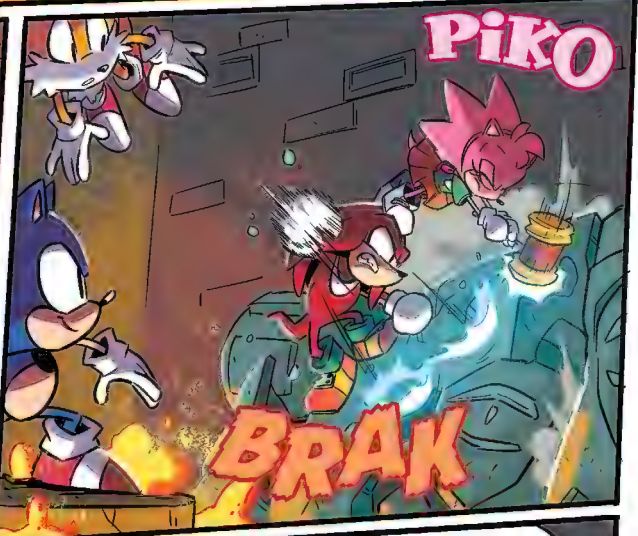
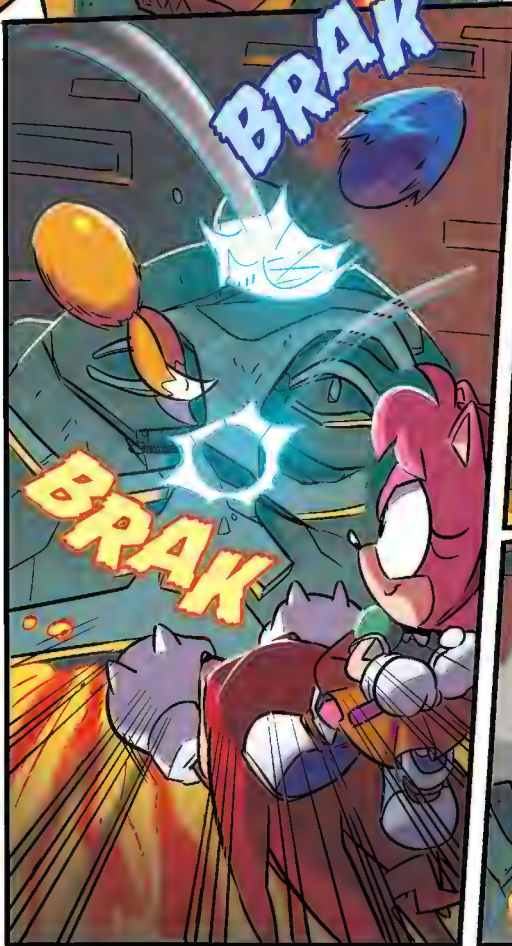


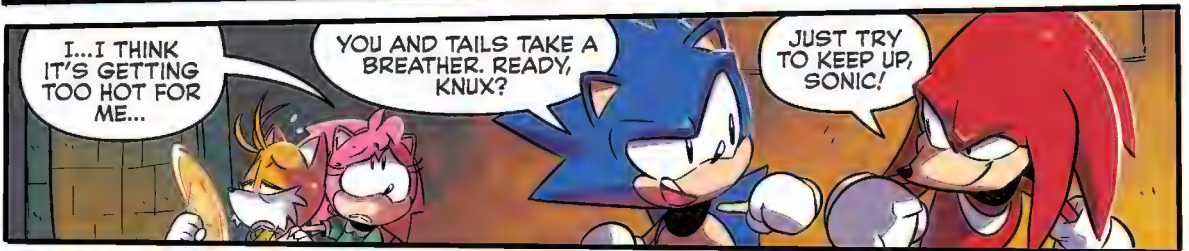
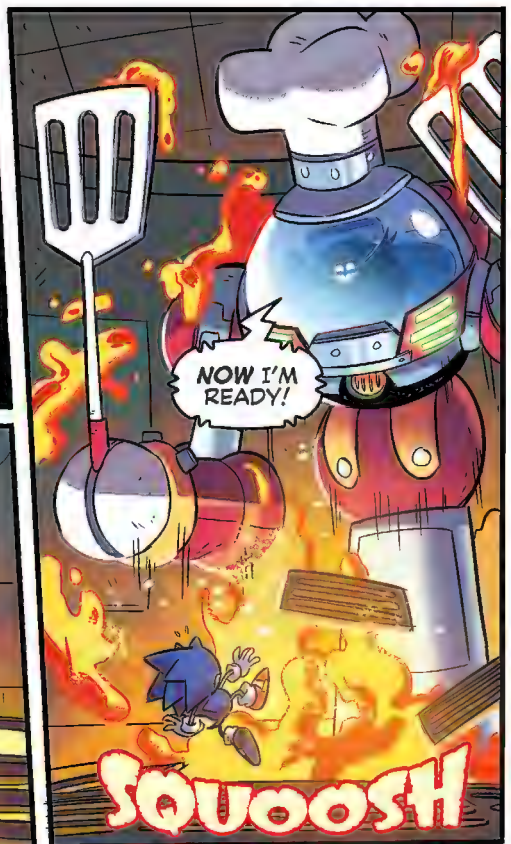
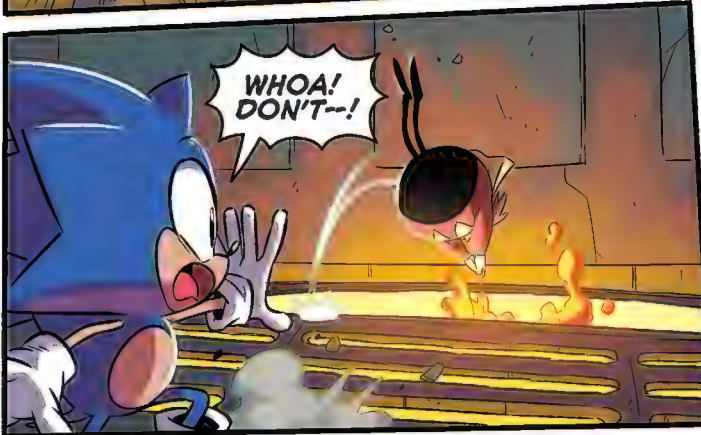
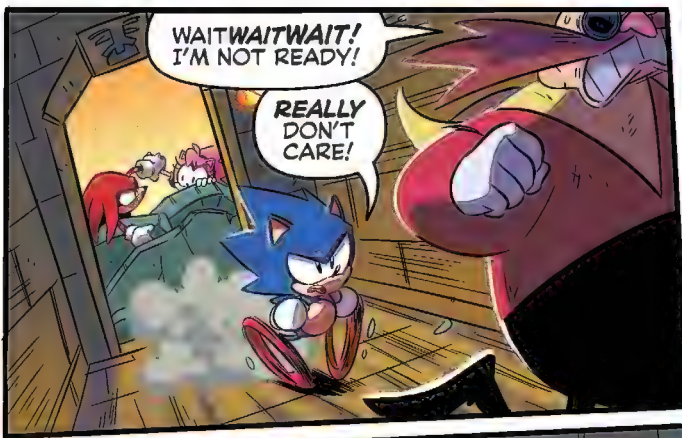
**FWOOSH**

NO SWEAT, GUYS! JUST HIT THE FACE!

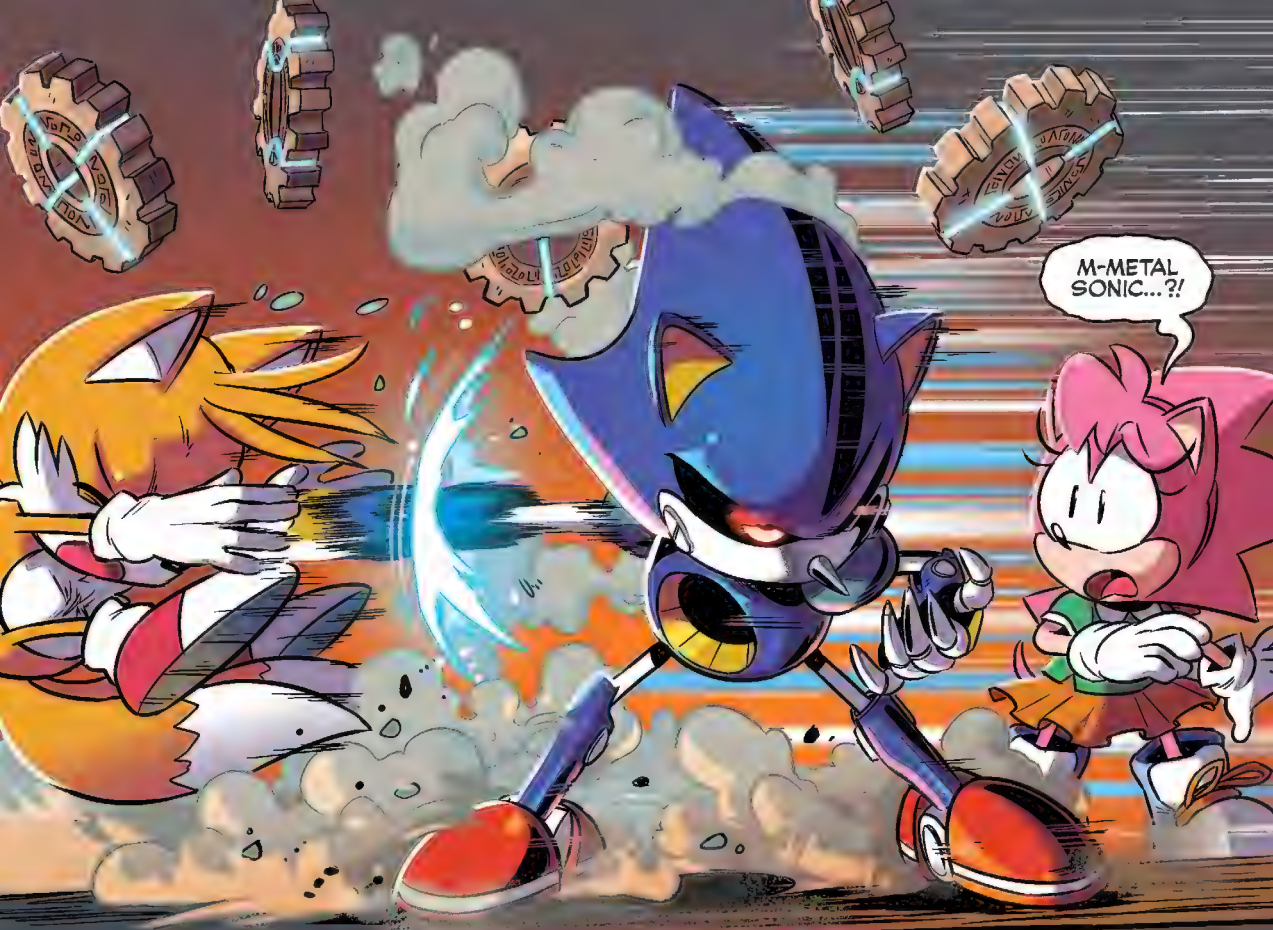
YOU CAN MEASURE THE TEMPERATURE IN KELVIN RIGHT NOW!

OKAY, MAYBE A LITTLE SWEAT...









M-METAL SONIC...?!



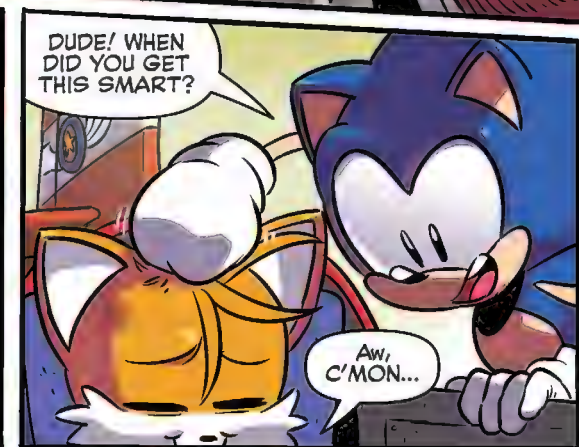
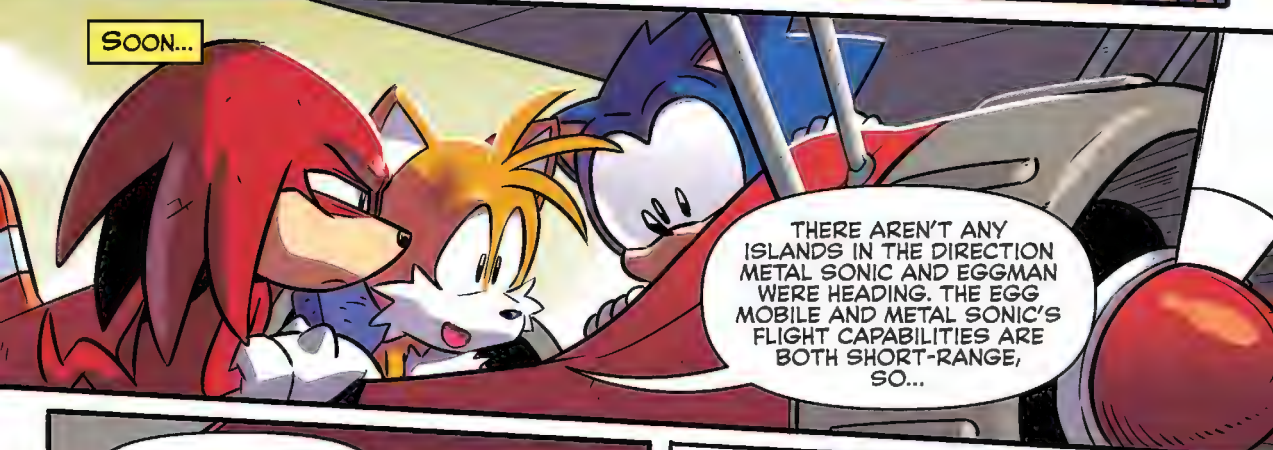
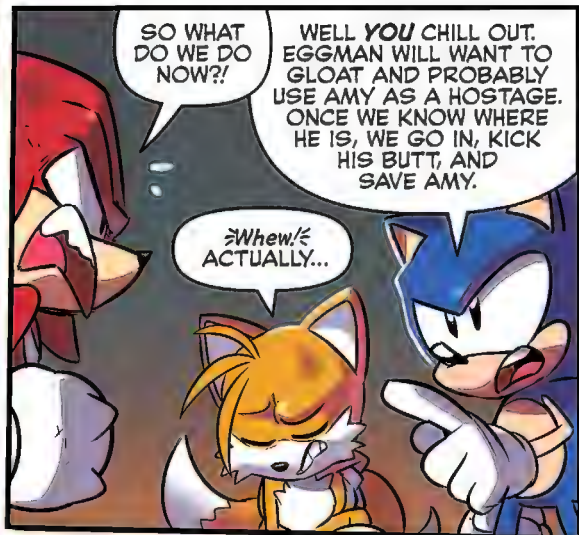
TAILS, ARE YOU...?

EEP!



BWA-HA-HA-HA!  
LOOK HOW THE TABLES HAVE TURNED!

SONIC!  
HELP!!



A SHORT  
FLIGHT  
LATER...

THERE!  
THAT MUST  
BE EGGMAN'S  
NEWEST  
FLYING  
BASE!

Eh...NOT AS SLEEK  
AS THE WING FORTRESS,  
BUT BIGGER THAN THE  
FLYING BATTERY. I'LL GIVE  
IT A...SIX-OUT-OF-TEN.

*Pssst!*  
IT'S NO  
DEATH EGG,  
THAT'S FOR  
SURE.

LET'S  
GO CLEAR  
THE WAY!

BET I CAN  
SMASH MORE  
THAN YOU!

YOU'RE  
ON!

UH...  
GUYS? LOTS  
OF BADNIKS  
INCOMING!

POF

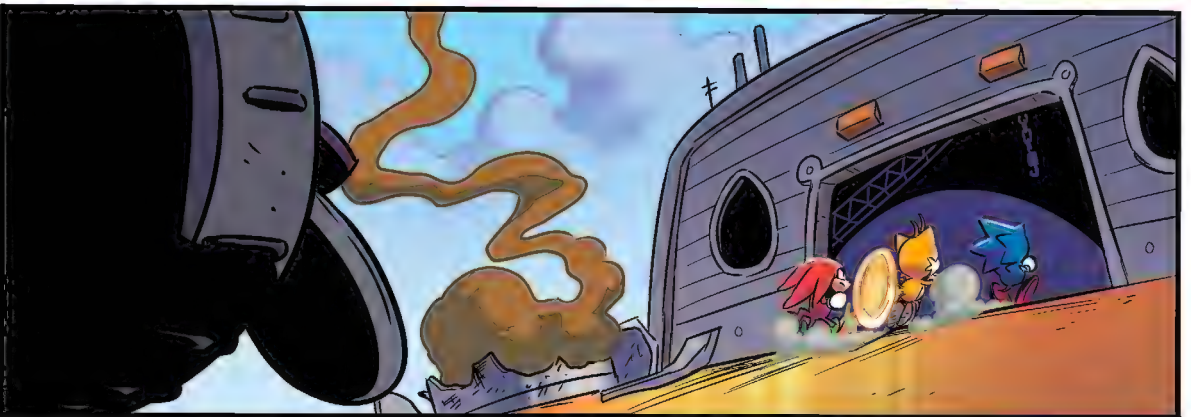
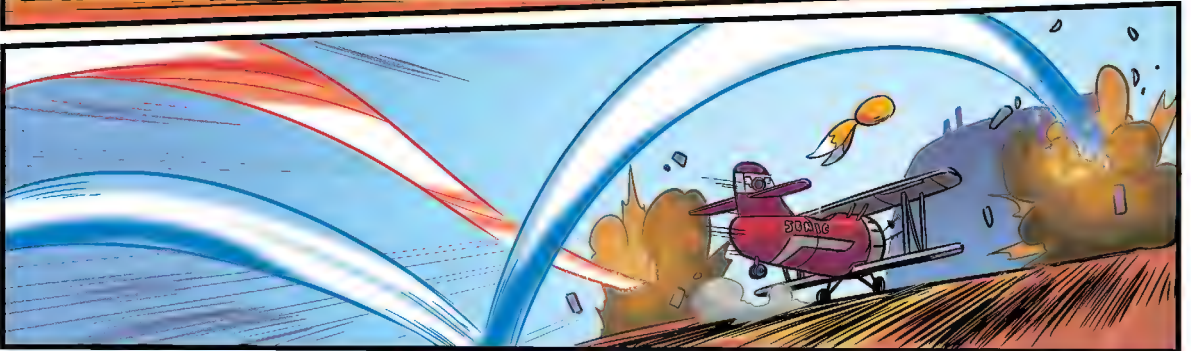
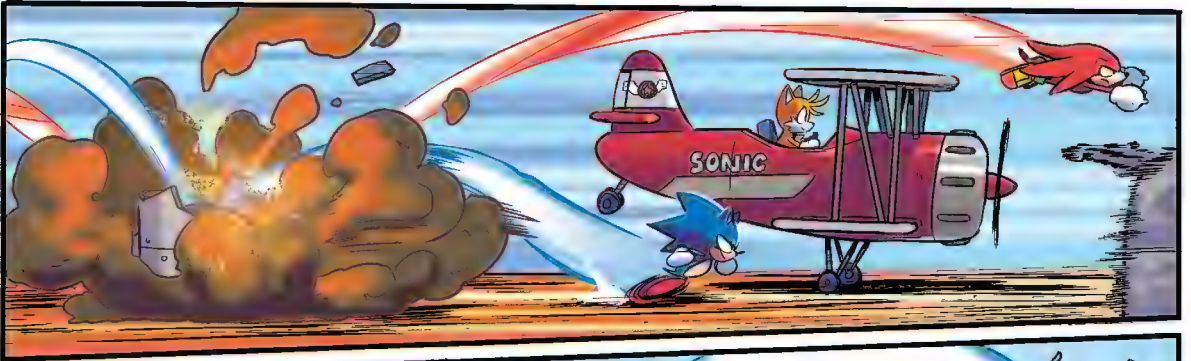
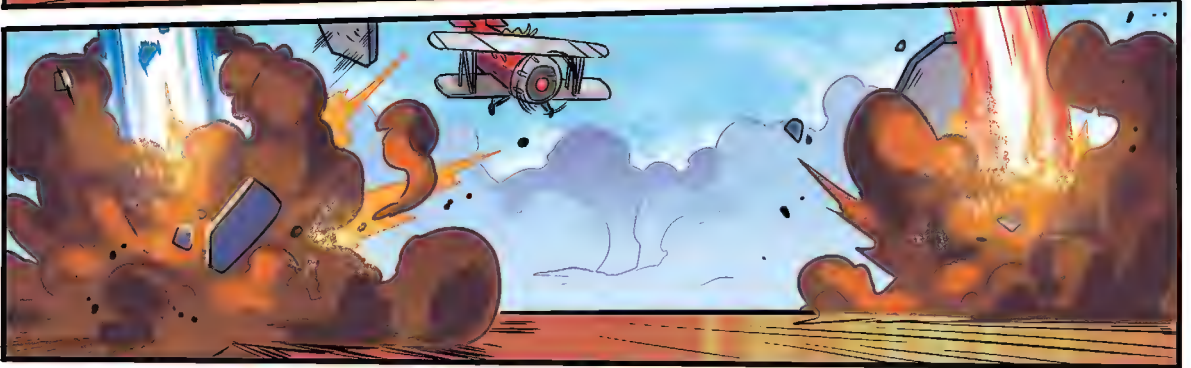
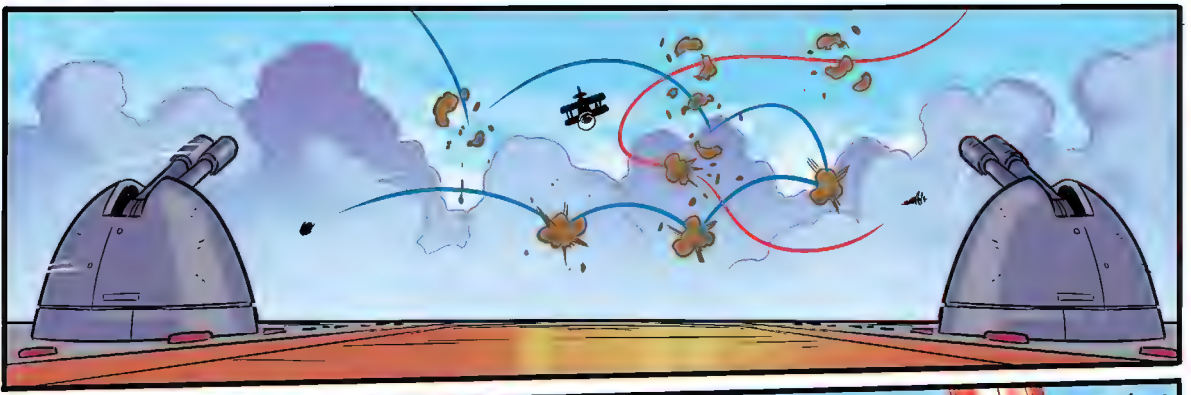
POF

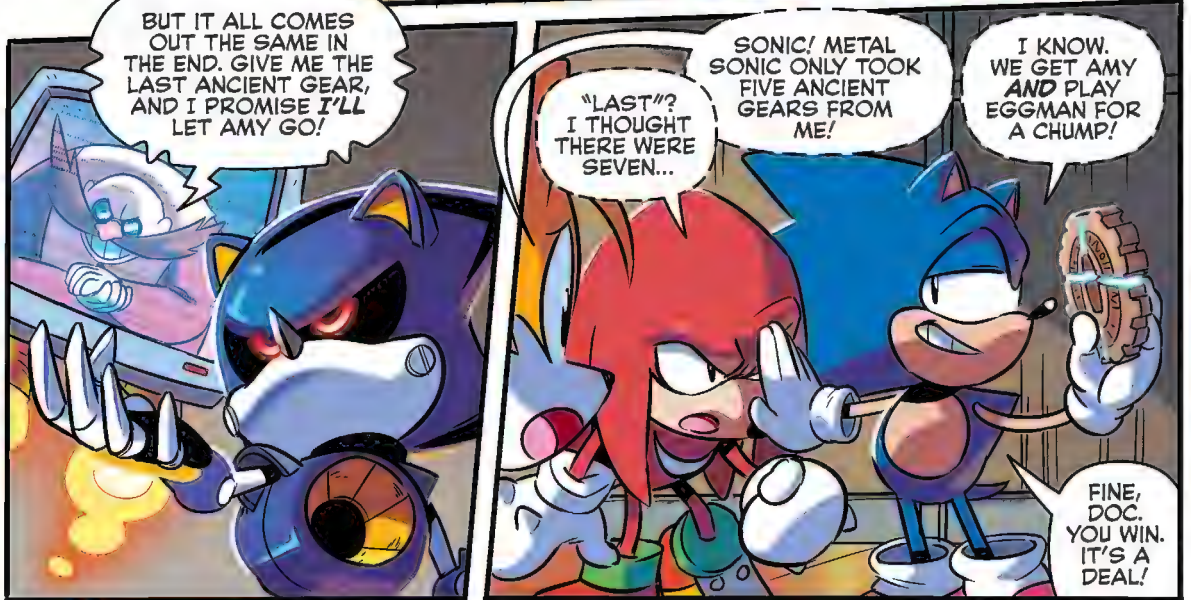
POF

POF

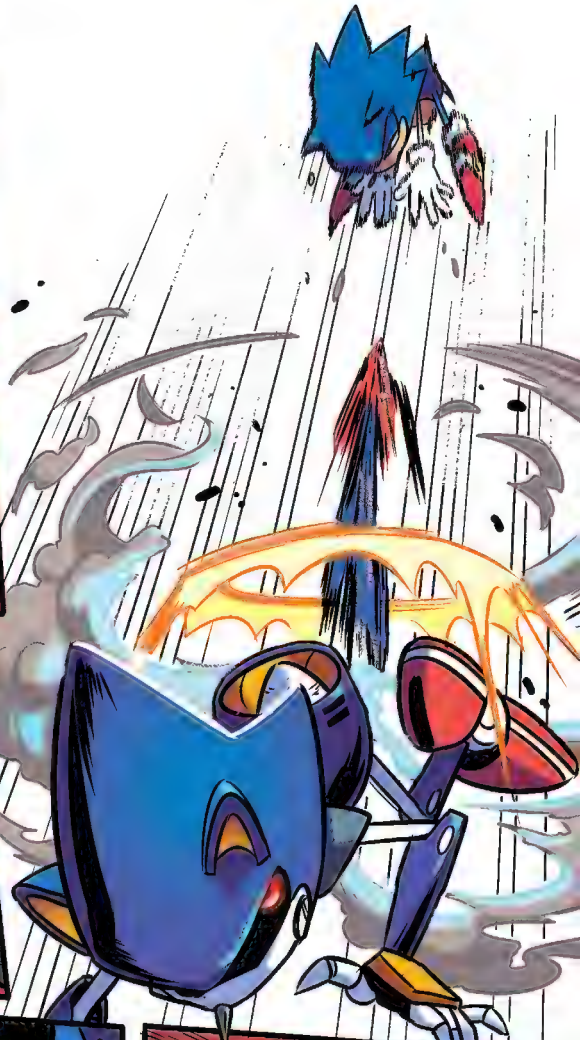
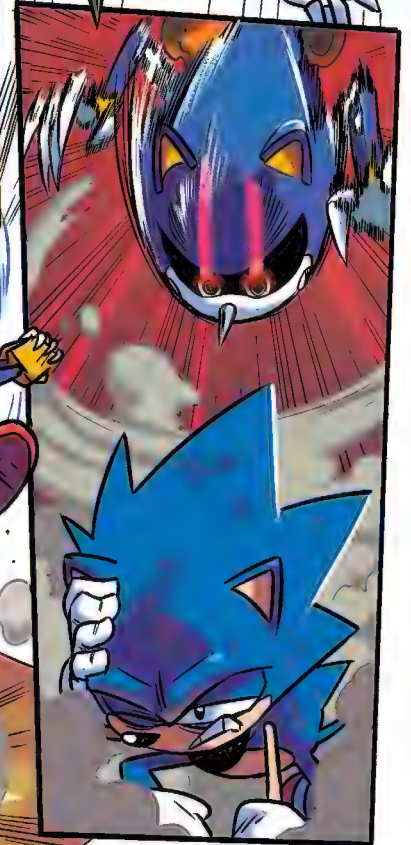
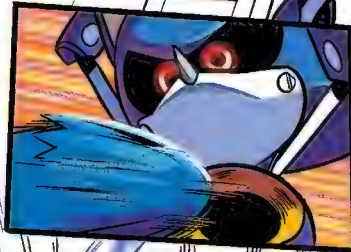
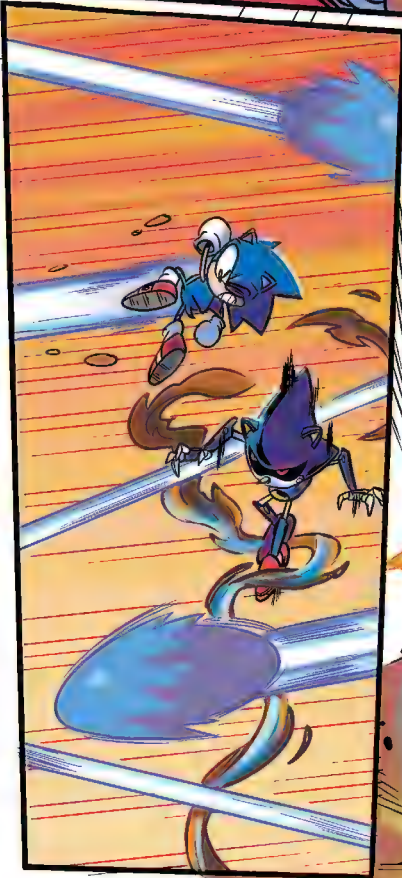
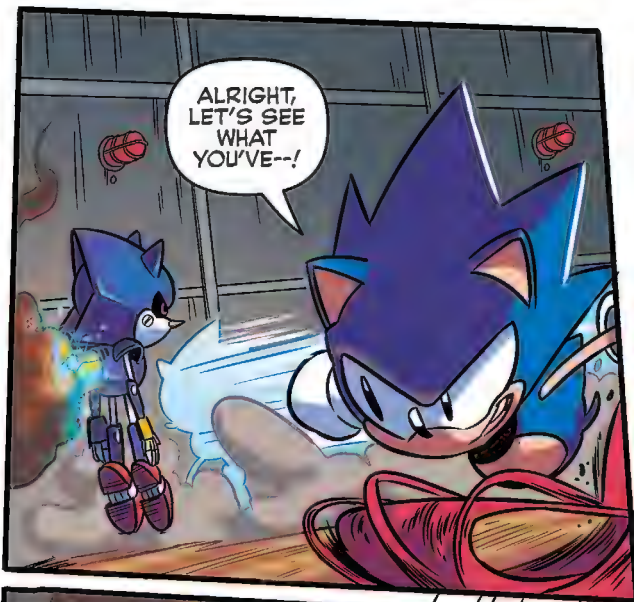
POF

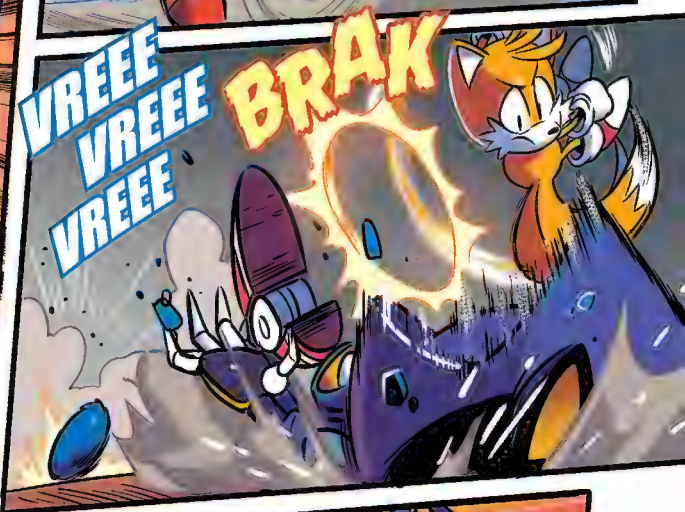


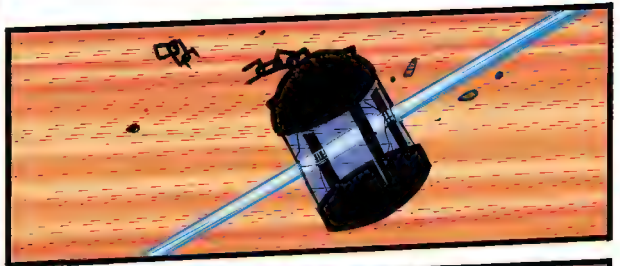
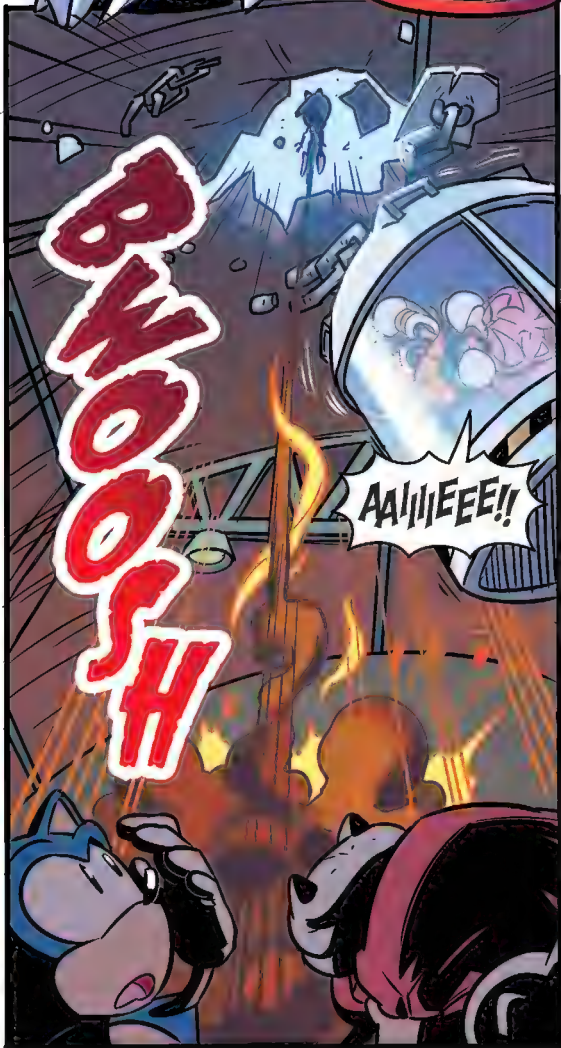
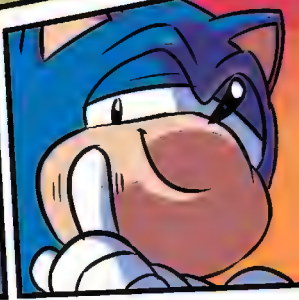
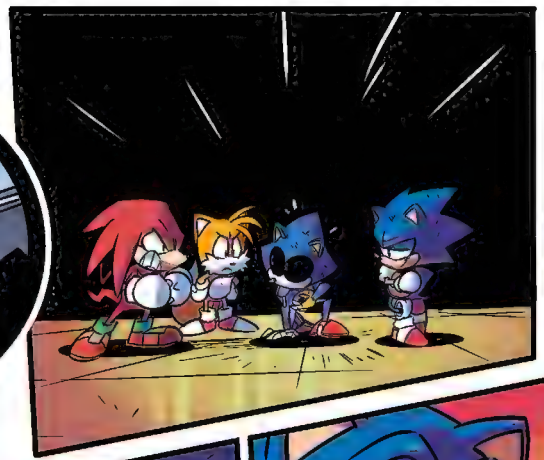


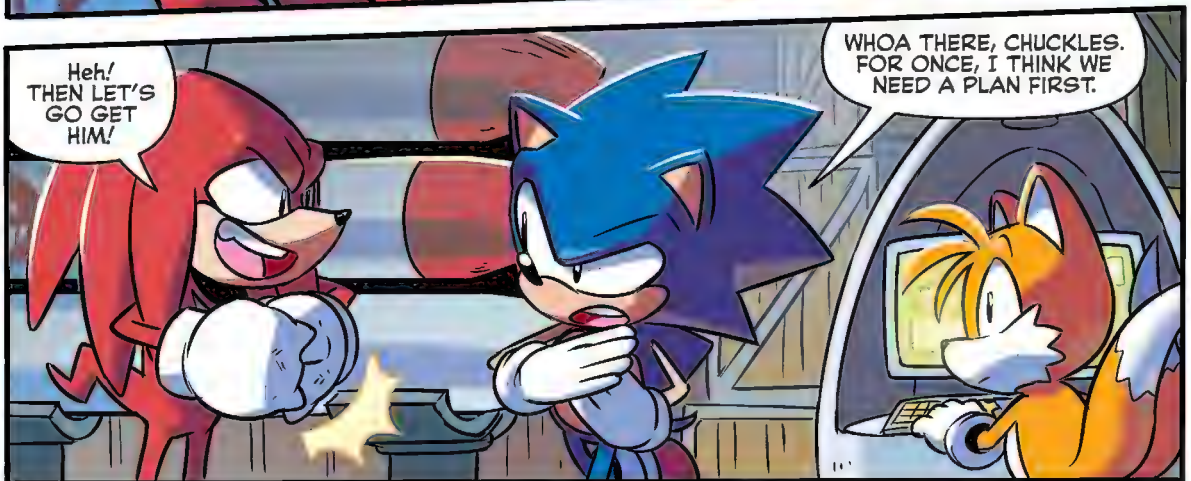
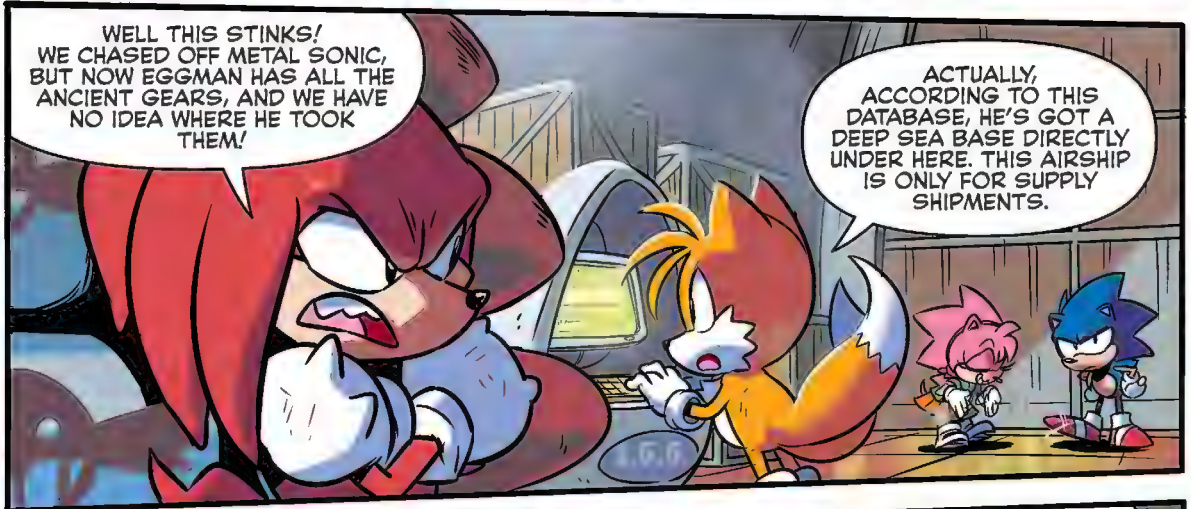
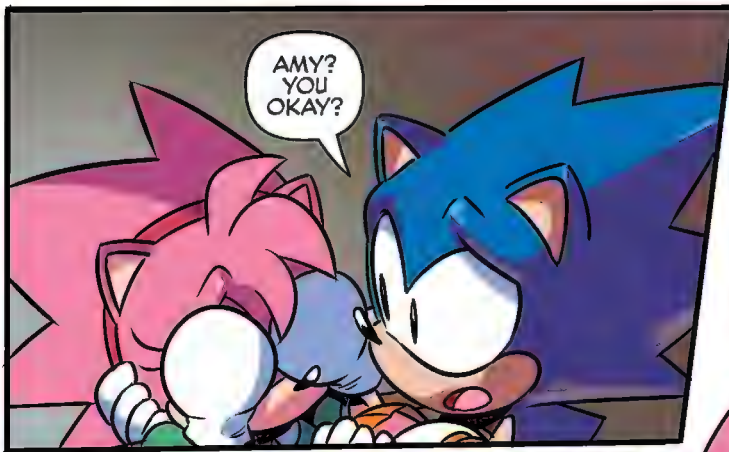


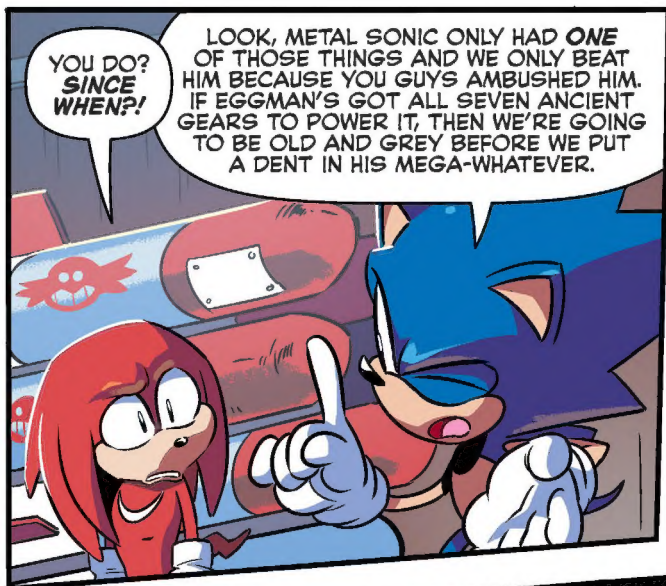












DR. EGGMAN MAY HAVE ALL THE ANCIENT GEARS, BUT HE'S NOT WON YET! COME BACK FOR THE FINAL CHAPTER IN **SONIC MEGA DRIVE: OVERDRIVE!** YOU CAN GET EVEN MORE SONIC ACTION WITH **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, SONIC UNIVERSE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!**



# Letter from the EDITOR

Editorial commentary which knows that if you try, you can do anything!

## CREATIVE TEAM GOT THROUGH ACT TWO!

Welcome, Sonic fans! How'd you like that for a follow-up? Ian, Tyson, Matt and Jack gave it their all to take us to the next level for this story and I truly believe they hit a grand slam! Beautiful work, guys!



From the beginning, I knew Mega Drive was going to be something special. It's so rewarding to see how many fans, new and old, enjoyed the first issue and thanks to that great response, we were able to continue this journey with even more action, adventure and, most importantly, fun!

From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of the staff here at Archie, thank you for joining us on this journey. We take chances every day and there's no telling how things will end up. But if the initial step is never taken, you'll never know what could have been. I'm so glad that we took this chance and that this team was given the opportunity once more to show you all what they can do!



Finally, a major shout out to our friends at SEGA who have been super supportive of the Mega Drive project. It's a pleasure to work with you all and I can't wait to do even more!



With that, I hope everyone enjoyed *The Next Level!*  
Onward to victory!

*Vin*  
2016

- Vincent "Vin" Lovallo  
Editor



### ABOVE AND BELOW:

Sonic and Metal face off in these cover thumbnail sketches by Sonic: Mega Drive -The Next Level artist Tyson Hesse! Can you identify which of these covers is drawn in reference to the SEGA CD game Sonic CD?



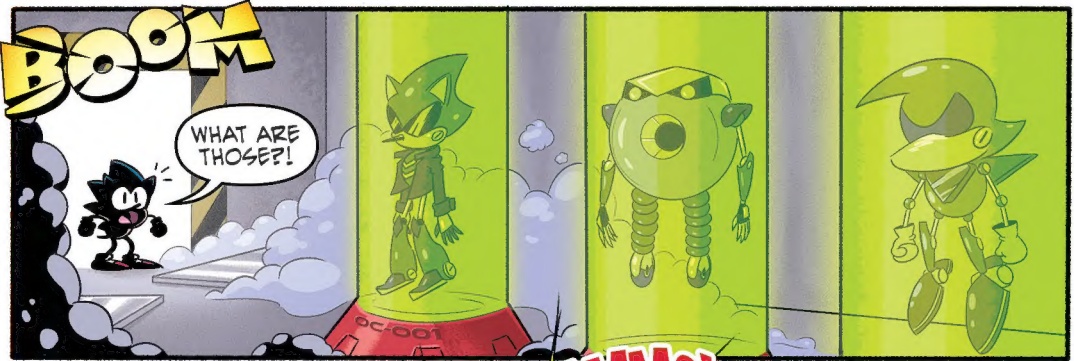
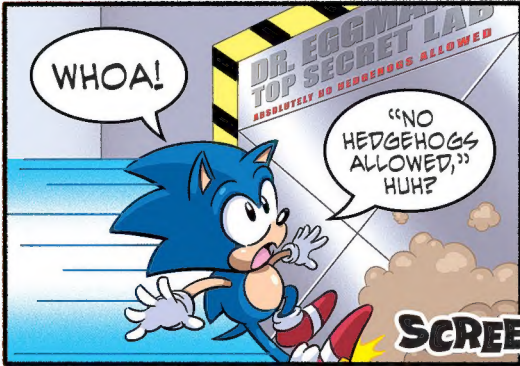


# OFF PANEL

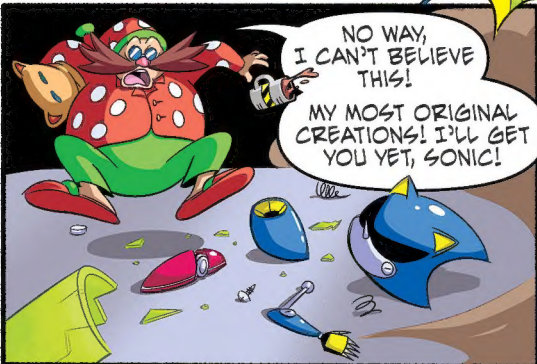
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

# SECRET - ORIGINS - METAL SONIC

SCRIPT: RON CACACE ART: VINCENT LOVALLO



## KA-BLAMMO!



SOON



# SONIC™

- MEGA DRIVE -

## OVERDRIVE



PENDING LICENSOR  
APPROVAL

Jeff 2016

### TO BE CONCLUDED...

### ...SPRING 2017